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Contd

said solid cover material, said foamed material, and said outer plate being corrosion treated with a corrosion protection agent and subsequent drying.

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-18 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 12-16 have been rejected as being anticipated by *Thum* (US 5,194,199) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In item 2 on pages 3-4 of the Office action, claims 6, 8, 10, 11, and 17-18 have been rejected as being obvious over *Thum* in view of *Russell* (WO 93/05103) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejections have been noted and claims 1 and 15 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 6, lines 9-11, of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 as amended calls for, inter alia:

coating a solid core material with activatable material;

enclosing the solid core material and the activatable material with an outer plate to form an assembly with a defined cavity inside said outer plate;

passing the assembly to a corrosion treatment bath and subjecting all interior areas of the assembly to a corrosion protection agent; and

subsequently **passing the assembly to a drying oven** for **heating** and, thereby, **initiating** foaming of the activatable material and at least partly filling the defined cavity with the activatable material.

Thum states in col. 3, lines 17-23, "the assembly ... is subjected to an immersion-coating in which a hot coating compound ... penetrates into the space 10 and transmits heat to the material That causes the shell material to foam so that the shell 1 fills the spaces 10". Hence, in *Thum* it is the step of applying a hot **coating** which causes the foaming of the shell material. In contrast, in the invention of the instant application, it is the step of heating the assembly in

a drying oven which initiates foaming of the activatable material.


Clearly, *Thum* does not show a step of passing the assembly to a drying oven for heating and initiating foaming of the activatable material, as recited in claims 1 and 15 of the instant application. Therefore, the invention as recited in claims 1 and 15 of the instant application is believed not to be anticipated by *Thum*.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that *Thum* does not show the features of claims 1 and 15. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claims 2-14 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well. Similarly, claim 15 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claims 16-18 are ultimately dependent on claim 15, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 are solicited.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant

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August 6, 2001

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Applic. No. : 09/666,951 .

Version with markings to show changes made:

Claim 1 (amended). A method of producing a hollow section with internal reinforcement, which comprises:

coating a solid core material with activatable material;

enclosing the solid core material and the activatable material with an outer plate to form an assembly with a defined cavity inside said outer plate;

passing the assembly to a corrosion treatment bath and subjecting all interior areas of the assembly to a corrosion protection agent; and

subsequently passing the assembly to a drying oven for heating and, thereby, initiating foaming of the activatable material and at least partly filling the [cavity] defined cavity with the activatable material.

Claim 15 (amended). A hollow section, comprising:

a solid core material formed of a material selected from the group consisting of foamed metallic material, unfoamed metallic material, synthetic material reinforced with fibers

selected from the group consisting of metal fibers, carbon fibers, and glass fibers, and a hollow section;

activated, [foamed] heat-foamed material on said solid core material;

an outer plate enclosing said solid core material, with said foamed material at least partly filling a defined cavity between said solid core material and said outer plate;

said solid cover material, said foamed material, and said outer plate being corrosion treated with a corrosion protection agent and subsequent drying.